

# Labor Resources for West Columbia, South Carolina

## Executive Summary

---

This profile contains information about the labor force within a 30 minute and 45 minute commuting distance from the center of West Columbia, South Carolina. West Columbia is located in Lexington County, South Carolina.

The profile examines three issues: labor force characteristics, the availability of labor, and the average wages and salaries in the community of West Columbia.

## Labor Situation at a Glance in West Columbia, South Carolina

Labor Force Characteristics	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Population, 2004	375,587	628,237	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	172,244	287,286	2,046,179
Availability of Labor	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Unemployed Workers, 2004	10,794	18,224	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	6.3%	5.7%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	182	1,398	22,196
Average Wages	Lexington County	South Carolina	United States
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$546	\$581	\$658

## Labor Force Characteristics for West Columbia, South Carolina

The composition and size of a community's labor force is linked very closely with demographic and economic conditions and trends in the region. The following labor force profile provides basic information on the population base and labor force characteristics so that the reader can better assess labor force conditions in the community.

Labor Force			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force 2004	172,244	287,286	2,046,179
Change since 2000	-20,803	-31,866	49,079
Population			
Population 2004	375,587	628,237	4,198,068
Change since 2000	9,328	19,436	186,056
Projected 2010	178,841	404,139	4,446,704
Gender Distribution			
Male	184,743	308,248	2,040,261
Female	190,843	319,988	2,132,454
Age Distribution			
Ages 20-34	86,149	140,438	875,330
Ages 35-49	78,687	131,610	925,330
Ages 50-64	63,382	107,384	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	190,502	315,201	2,084,880
Highest Level of Educational Attainment			
High School	131,722	217,962	778,054
Some College	59,921	102,621	500,194
Associate Degree	25,305	42,176	173,428
Bachelors Degree	44,849	75,843	351,526
Post Bachelor	18,203	31,745	178,529

*\*Prime working age group:*  
People between the ages of 18-54 are often referred to as the prime working age group. In staffing a new facility, prudent managers often prefer to staff its production work force with workers whose ages form a normal distribution curve. This provides for stability, flexibility and continuity of knowledge.

Source: 2004 Estimates Based on 2000 U.S. Census of Population and Woods and Poole, 2003 Edition

## Employment Characteristics for West Columbia, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	161,449	269,062	1,906,571

*Total Employment* data include all full and part-time wage and salaried workers in the area. These people may or may not reside in the area.

Monthly Employment by Sector In Lexington County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>12,379</b>
<b>Mining</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>1,603</b>
<b>Utilities</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>11,891</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>4,596</b>	<b>10,079</b>	<b>111,730</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>9,211</b>	<b>24,898</b>	<b>275,573</b>
Wood product manufacturing	193	406	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	159	585	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing		64	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	867	2,112	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	410	1,324	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	643	1,068	7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.		236	10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	432	2,062	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	55	138	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	150	678	7,846
Food manufacturing	1,427	2,451	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing			1,445
Textile mills	347	1,893	40,207
Textile product mills	43	306	9,724
Apparel manufacturing	6	68	5,321
Paper manufacturing	259	637	14,710
Printing and related support activities	385	800	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing			288
Chemical manufacturing	40	749	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	6	691	23,054
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	<b>2,918</b>	<b>6,098</b>	<b>62,523</b>
<b>Retail Trade</b>	<b>7,795</b>	<b>17,401</b>	<b>224,031</b>
<b>Transportation and Warehousing</b>	<b>2,549</b>	<b>4,806</b>	<b>46,941</b>
<b>Education and Health Services</b>	<b>11,377</b>	<b>24,462</b>	<b>156,232</b>
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>5,416</b>	<b>12,035</b>	<b>192,748</b>
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>4,233</b>	<b>10,938</b>	<b>186,481</b>

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

## Largest Industries by Total Employment In Lexington County, SC

Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
Michelin North America, Inc	Lexington	Automobile tires	1250	1981
UPS	West Columbia	Airfreight	630	1996
U.S. Food Services	Lexington	Food distributor	600	1988
NCR	West Columbia	Network tech support center	523	1972
Southeastern Freight Lines Inc	Lexington	Transportation services	500	1994
Honeywell International Inc	Columbia	Staple nylon	480	1961
Harsco Track Tech	Cayce	Railroad maintenance equipment	467	1966
Columbia Farms Inc	West Columbia	Poultry processing	425	1982
Cooper Tools	Lexington	Power driven hand tools	392	1982
Union Switch & Signal Inc	Batesburg-Leesville	Assembly electronic products	390	1962
Pirelli Cables & Systems NA-Comm Div	Lexington	Optical fiber communication cable	375	1985
SMI Steel-South Carolina	Cayce	Steel reinforcing bars	360	1961
Solectron	West Columbia	Computer systems & switches	351	1998
Momentum Logistics	Lexington	Delivery service	350	1986
Ellet Brothers Inc	Chapin	Sports equipment	263	1933
Michelin North America, Inc	Lexington	Earthmover tires	250	1998
SMI Joist South Carolina	Cayce	Steel bar joist	233	1955
JB Martin Company	Batesburg-Leesville	Velvet	228	1956
Lion Ribbon Co	Batesburg-Leesville	Narrow fabrics	222	1972
Otis Spunkmeyer	Cayce	Frozen baked goods	220	1977

### Employer-Employee Relationship

Employer-employee relations in South Carolina are very stable and the state consistently ranks as one of the least unionized in the nation. In 2004, only 4.5 percent of the state's workers were members of a labor union. Additionally, the state has consistently had one of the lowest work stoppage rates in the United States. On average, less than .01 percent of working time was lost due to strikes in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries combined.

## Availability of Labor

---

### Labor Force Participation & Unemployment

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force (2004)	172,244	287,286	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	-20,803	-31,866	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	46%	46%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	10,794	18,224	139,607
Unemployment Rate	6.3%	5.7%	6.8%

The *labor force participation* rate is the percentage which results from dividing the labor force count by the total population.

*Unemployment* reflects the total number of persons who do not have a job and are actively seeking employment.

### Other Potential Sources of Labor Supply

Total Jobs Lost Due to Mass Closings and Layoffs Past Two Years			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Total	182	1,398	22,196
Manufacturing	128	1,220	19,196
Distribution	53	135	1,213
Service	1	43	1,745
Other	-	-	42

Recent closings and layoffs are a rich source of skilled and experienced labor for companies seeking to locate or expand in a given area. Industries in which layoffs and closings occur can provide some indication of the skills and knowledge-base of many unemployed and underemployed workers in a region.

Commuters to Other Areas			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Commuters to other areas	50,864	89,551	31,833

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Workers commuting to places outside their resident are a significant source of experienced labor for new and expanding industries. These workers may be willing to consider an opportunity for employment nearer their place of residence.

## Recent Graduates of South Carolina's Colleges and Universities

<b>Certificates/Degrees Conferred From Technical Colleges in Select Degrees Within 45 Minute Drive Time of Lexington County, SC</b>	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates/Degrees Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	381
Data Processing Technology	180
Engineering Technologies (Total)	154
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	68
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	*
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	334
Industrial Electronics	44
HVAC	50
Precision Production (Total)	131
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	97

<b>Graduation From South Carolina's Four Year Colleges and Universities In Select Degrees</b>		
	Degrees Conferred (2002-2004)	
	Bachelors	Post- Grad
Computer and Information Science (Total)	910	108
Computer Engineering	150	149
Computer Programming	12	5
Engineering & Related Technologies (Total)	1,316	786
Chemical Engineering	136	38
Electrical Engineering	257	150
Industrial Engineering	78	44
Mechanical Engineering	268	95
Business Admin & Management	4,754	1,018
International Business/Trade	178	276

Source: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

## Wages and Salaries

Average Wage and Salary Comparison			
Sector	Lexington County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$546	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$28,394	\$30,240	\$37,508
Avg. Hourly Prod. Wages**	N/A	\$14.73	\$16.14

\*Covered Wages and Employment, 2003, SC Employment Securities Commission

\*\* Employment & Earnings, 2004, U.S. Department of Labor

Average Annual Salary Manufacturing Sectors, 2004		
Sector	Lexington County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$37,018	\$39,027
Wood product	\$26,258	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	\$34,429	\$39,031
Primary metal	***	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	\$34,888	\$37,533
Machinery	\$45,248	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	\$47,371	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	***	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	\$45,235	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	\$21,083	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	\$30,946	\$34,350
Food	\$20,376	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	\$25,338	\$31,898
Textile product mills	\$20,427	\$25,618
Apparel	***	\$23,705
Paper	\$39,325	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	\$35,438	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	***	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	***	\$46,620

\*\*\*Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

## Occupational Wages In West Columbia and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Lexington Area			
Non-Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$9.01	\$12.25	\$15.34
Butchers and Meat Cutters	\$8.86	\$10.85	\$13.19
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	\$9.23	\$12.52	\$15.19
Chemical Equipment Operators	*	*	*
Chemical Plant & System Operators	*	*	*
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	\$11.23	\$12.23	\$13.59
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	*	*	*
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	\$10.39	\$11.92	\$13.19
Logging Equipment Operators	\$8.56	\$10.24	\$10.65
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$10.91	\$15.55	\$19.27
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	*	*	*
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	*	*	*
Machinists	\$9.01	\$12.80	\$15.97
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	\$9.77	\$11.02	\$12.62
Molding & Casting Machine Op	\$11.71	\$12.43	\$13.22
Sewing Machine Operators	\$6.82	\$8.60	\$10.52
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	\$9.25	\$9.82	\$10.59
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$12.04	\$16.23	\$19.76
Welders, Cutters & Solders	\$9.76	\$12.18	\$13.99
Woodworking Machine Setters	\$8.97	\$10.53	\$12.34
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Lexington Area*			
Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Chemical Engineers	*	*	*
Computer Programmers	\$34,340	\$49,480	\$63,860
Engineers, NEC	\$30,600	\$46,040	\$57,640
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$32,120	\$42,380	\$51,840
Industrial Engineers	\$37,180	\$47,060	\$56,080
Mechanical Engineers	\$46,200	\$57,280	\$68,040

Source: *Occupational Wage Survey*, SC Employment Security Commission

\* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available